REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this paper, claim 20 has been amended to correct two typographical errors. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

The present invention is directed to a process for preparing a heavy base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 100°C of above 15 cSt and a light lubricating base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 100°C of between 3.8 and 6 cSt from a partly isomerized Fishcher-Tropsch derived feedstock. In the process, the Fishcher-Tropsch derived feedstock is separated via distillation into a light base oil precursor faction and a heavy base oil precursor faction. Each faction is then separately dewaxed and the desired base oil products are isolated from the dewaxed oil faction.

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berlowitz (US Patent 6,475,960). In the Berlowitz process, a Fischer Tropsch hydrocarbon feedstock is hydroisomerized and then the hydroisomerate is typically sent to a fractionator to remove the 650-750°F- boiling fraction. The remaining 650-750°F+ isomerate is dewaxed to reduce its pour point and is then fractionated to form two or more fractions of different viscosity as base stocks. The Berlowitz reference also teaches that the entire hydroisomerate can be dewaxed.

The present invention differs from the Berlowitz process in that the feedstock is separated into a light base oil precursor faction and a heavy base oil precursor faction prior to the dewaxing step. These fractions are then separately dewaxed. As taught beginning at the bottom of page 2 of the specification, "A further advantage of dewaxing the light and heavy base oil precursor fractions separately is that the pour points of the resulting light and heavy base oils can be targeted to their most optional value. If no separate dewaxing is used, the pour point of one grade will then be the resultant of the pour point of the other grade." In the Berlowitz process, the feedstock is dewaxed prior to being fractionated into the different viscosity base stocks. See column 2, lines 16 to 26 and col. 7, lines 31-51.

In Berlowitz the 650-750°F+ fraction is dewaxed and then fractionated to produce the different base stocks. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in Berlowitz to fractionate this portion of the feedstock into a light base oil precursor and a heavy base oil precursor and then separately dewax these precursors prior to isolating the desired base

oils products. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention would not have been obvious in view of the Berlowitz reference.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested. Should the Examiner find any impediment to the allowance of the claims which could be corrected by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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